

Indicative Language for a Fact Sheet on USCA Announcements at GCAS – Long Form

At the Global Climate Action Summit, a bipartisan coalition of 17 governors committed to upholding the Paris Agreement through the U.S. Climate Alliance are turning pledges into action. In the last year, the federal attack on our nation's climate framework has had real consequences – slowing the reduction of carbon pollution across the country.

In spite of this, the U.S. Climate Alliance continues to reduce our GHG emissions faster than the rest of the country, and will accelerate the implementation of real climate action to meet our share of the Paris Agreement's emission reduction goals, all while continuing to grow our economies and create jobs for Americans.

The U.S. Climate Alliance Governors are committed to taking the following actions:

Short-Lived Climate Pollutants

Until recently, a growing and effective regulatory framework was in place to begin reducing SLCP emissions nationally. Many of these rules have been rescinded or delayed, leading to significant uncertainty in the regulatory landscape affecting businesses and emissions in the U.S., and making state leadership on reducing SLCP emissions all the more necessary and urgent. The U.S. Climate Alliance calls on the Trump Administration and U.S. Senate to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, and on the federal government to reinstate or complete national rules to achieve cost effective and technologically feasible reductions in emissions of HFCs, methane from landfills and oil and gas production, and particulate matter and black carbon from woodstoves and the transportation sector. In the absence of regulatory certainty at the federal level, and building on existing regulations in some Alliance states, the U.S. Climate Alliance will develop model regulations for states to consider to help reduce SLCP emissions from these sources.

U.S. Climate Alliance states will consider additional steps to further reduce SLCP emissions, as described in the SLCP Action Plan, in order to:

- Do our part to help fulfill [[HYPERLINK "http://ccacoalition.org/en/resources/leaders%20%80%99-statement-north-american-climate-clean-energy-and-environment-partnership"](http://ccacoalition.org/en/resources/leaders%20%80%99-statement-north-american-climate-clean-energy-and-environment-partnership)] to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by 40-45 percent below 2012 levels by 2025
- Reduce methane emissions from waste by improving landfill management, increasing diversion of organic waste from landfills, and supporting [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/united-states-2030-food-loss-and-waste-reduction-goal"](https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/united-states-2030-food-loss-and-waste-reduction-goal)] by 50 percent by 2030
- Achieve economically feasible methane reductions from the agricultural sector, including from manure management and enteric fermentation on livestock operations
- Identify and mitigate methane emissions from “super emitters,” which may be responsible for as much as half of methane emissions in some sectors
- Meet or exceed HFC emissions reductions expected from the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol and recent federal regulations
- Develop black carbon inventories and work to further reduce emissions of black carbon and particulate matter beyond declining “business as usual” levels

State actions along these lines can reduce methane emissions by an estimated 40-50 percent by 2030, solidify the transition away from HFCs in the U.S., and further reduce emissions of particulate matter and black carbon to improve public health. U.S. Climate Alliance states will develop and implement SLCP reduction strategies and will collaborate to improve and maintain SLCP emission inventories. The U.S. Climate Alliance will track and report on progress toward these commitments and others made pursuant to the SLCP Challenge, and it will engage partners to support these efforts and further expand efforts to reduce SLCP emissions globally.

Natural and Working Lands

The U.S. Climate Alliance Governors recognize that the natural systems upon which we depend are essential to life and critical to reducing the impacts of climate change on our communities. They are also under threat from human activity and climate change. To protect the communities, economies, and ecosystems that depend on them, we will manage natural and working lands, including forests, farms, rangelands, and wetlands, to be resilient carbon sinks.

The U.S. Climate Alliance is committed to adopting state-level action plans by 2020 that outline the role of land-based carbon sequestration and GHG emission reductions as part of broader climate change strategies.

In addition, [XYZ] today establish state-level targets for GHG reductions from natural and working lands:

State X: ### and statement

State Y: ### and statement

State Z: ### and statement

In addition, [NGOs XYZ] announce formation of Coalition [ABC] to provide technical support to state-level inventory development, identification of best practices for land conservation and restoration, and integration of land use and management into broader climate goals.

Transportation

The transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across our states. Alliance states are supporting innovation across the sector to provide our residents access to the best technologies, grow our economies and create jobs – all while drastically reducing emissions.

Together, the 17 states and territories that make up the US Climate Alliance are catalyzing and streamlining the deployment of billions of dollars in zero emission vehicle (ZEV) infrastructure and vehicle deployment – including \$1.4bn from the Volkswagen settlement - through state programs, mitigation funding, and utility and private investments. These investments will help decarbonize our transportation system through the deployment of electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, buses, vessels and charging/fueling stations.

To enable the acceleration of a ZEV future, the states of the US Climate Alliance will strive to achieve all-zero emission vehicle (ZEV) [future][sales] as soon as possible, [and no later than 2050]., The US Climate Alliance will develop a playbook of case studies and model policies to help all states achieve this future vision. Case studies will include vehicle purchase incentives, priority access to HOV lanes for ZEVs, and lead by example initiatives like “ZEV-first” purchasing policies across public fleets.

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The US Climate Alliance states also call on auto companies to offer more ZEV models, expand availability and improve marketing of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles so that all Americans, including those in rural areas and our farming communities, can reap the benefits of vehicles that save money, and protect our health and air.

But ZEVs are not the only solution to GHG emission reductions in the transportation sector, particularly in light of the uncertainty around how transportation technology innovation, such as the advent of autonomous vehicles, will affect usage trends. Therefore, the US Climate Alliance states plan to study, share and implement best practices, policies and coordinated land use advancements to promote “zero emission miles” (ZEM) across all modes and fleets.

[We urge the federal government to develop transportation-related GHG emission reductions goals/performance measures in consultation with states and environmental and transportation associations to help promote consistent reporting, share best practices and develop a knowledge base in all states.

Even in the absence of federal leadership,] we commit to annually calculate and report transportation GHG emissions, as our states deploy innovative ZEV and ZEM policies, [and seek to rapidly and deeply decarbonize energy used for transportation.]

Product Energy Efficiency Standard

USCA states will coordinate in the adoption and enforcement of common efficiency standards for a range of consumer and commercial appliances.

Over the last three decades, energy efficiency standards have saved consumers billions of dollars while providing the most cost-effective opportunity to avoid constructing costly new power generation. Today we announce our intent to collaborate on the adoption of common appliance efficiency standards and to coordinate on their implementation and enforcement.

A coordinated effort among multiple states to align around a common set of standards provides manufacturers certainty and the potential for greater harmony between state markets. Coordinated action among the Alliance states could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5.5 million tons and save consumers across our states \$4 billion dollars by 2025.

We agree to identify an initial set of priority standards already developed and ready for adoption and to begin work on a coordinated plan to evaluate and adopt new standards.

To ensure swift progress, ensure private sector participation and maximize the opportunity create jobs and grow our clean energy sectors, we announce our intent to partner with the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy and XYZ Manufacturers Association to advance this effort.

Solar Power Pledge

Governors in the U.S. Climate Alliance recognize that solar power is a vital component of a sustainable energy system and represents a major economic and job creation engine. [XX gigawatts] of solar – enough to power [XX million homes] – has been deployed in U.S. Climate Alliance states, creating [XX] jobs and reducing emissions by [XX].

U.S. Climate Alliance governors are united in their opposition to the misguided federal import tariffs on solar panels and cells enacted by the federal government in early 2018, which are forecast to reduce solar installations 11% through 2022. The Solar Energy Industries Association estimates that tariffs will cause the loss of roughly 23,000 American jobs this year alone, including solar panel installer jobs, which is the [[HYPERLINK "https://www.bls.gov/ooh/fastest-growing.htm"](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/fastest-growing.htm)] employment category in the country.

In response, the U.S. Climate Alliance governors today announce a commitment to offset the impacts of the federal solar import tariffs through the implementation of innovative cost reduction measures. To support this commitment, the U.S. Climate Alliance governors are announcing the release the *U.S. Climate Alliance Solar Guidebook*, which contains national best practices and hands-on tools for states to reduce solar system costs and streamline regulatory processes. These approaches have been pioneered in leading U.S. Climate Alliance states and are proven to dramatically reduce the overall costs of solar systems. By implementing these innovative strategies, U.S. Climate Alliance states will neutralize the impact of the import tariff within their states.

Grid Modernization Strategies

U.S. Climate Alliance states are leaders in deploying clean energy and innovative distributed energy resources, and states are moving boldly to modernize and strengthen their electric grids. However, notwithstanding the impacts of a changing climate and further accelerating emissions reductions requires new strategies.

U.S. Climate Alliance governors today announce the release of the *Grid Modernization Playbook*, a groundbreaking implementation resource for regulators and utilities to support deployment of clean distributed energy resources in lieu of traditional utility investments. By implementing innovative alternatives to traditional utility investments, U.S. Climate Alliance states will reduce emissions, save money for consumers, and modernize their electric grids.

[In addition, U.S. Climate Alliance governors are announcing the release of a Community Microgrid Handbook which explores strategies to organize communities and stakeholders around the creation of resilient local energy systems.]

Resilience

In August 2017, the federal government disbanded a Federal Advisory Committee designed to help shape climate science research and ensure it reaches those who need it. In January 2018, the group was reconvened in New York, pledging to continue its vital work and deliver recommendations to states in the U.S. Climate Alliance.

U.S. Climate Alliance governors today announce the release of the Applied Climate Assessment report, which contains vital recommendations on accelerating and disseminating climate science, and provides guidance on applying climate science in adaptation and mitigation action.

[U.S. Climate Alliance governors are also announcing the launch of the Climate Assessment Consortium, a group of leading scientists, scientific societies, and NGOs which will work with federal, state and local governments to ensure that decision-making is informed by the latest climate science. The Climate Assessment Consortium will ensure that climate science is tailored to the needs of the practitioner community and that the federal National Climate Assessment process reaches its audience.]

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Green Banks

[TBD]